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Remarks

Thorough examination and careful review of the application by the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11-16 and 19-27 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11-16, 19, 20, and 25-27 are rejected.

Claims 21-24 are objected to.

The indication by the Examiner that Claims 21-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is noted and appreciated.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 5-9, 11-13, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Tao et al '515.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent Claim 21, which is now cancelled as a result. The newly amended independent Claim 1 is therefore equivalent to Claim 21 being rewritten into independent form to include all the limitations contained in the base claim 1, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of the newly amended independent Claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claims 5-8 depend on the newly amended independent Claim 1, and therefore are

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likewise allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of Claims 5-8 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Independent Claim 9 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in dependent Claim 22, which is now cancelled as a result. The newly amended independent Claim 9 is therefore equivalent to dependent Claim 22 being rewritten into independent form to include all the limitations contained in the base claim 9, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of the newly amended independent Claim 9 is therefore respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claims 11-13 depend on the newly amended independent Claim 9, and therefore are likewise allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of Claims 11-13 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Independent Claim 15 has been amended to further recite limitations contained in dependent Claim 23, which is now cancelled as a result. The newly amended independent Claim 15 is therefore equivalent to Claim 23 being rewritten into independent form to include all the limitations contained in the base claim 15, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of the newly amended independent Claim 15 is therefore respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claims 25-27 depend on the newly amended independent Claims 1 and 9, respectively, and therefore are likewise allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of Claim 25-27 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

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Claims 3, 14-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the reference as applied above.

The rejection of Claims 3, 14-16, and 19-20 under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 depends on the newly amended independent Claim 1. Claim 14 depends on the newly amended independent Claim 9. Claim 16 depends on the newly amended independent Claim 15. Claims 19-20 also depend on the newly amended independent Claim 15. A reconsideration for allowance of Claims 3, 14-16 and 19-20 is therefore respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending Claims i.e. Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11-16, 19-20, and 24-27, are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is respectfully solicited.

In the event that the present invention as claimed is not in a condition for allowance for any other reasons, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at his Bloomfield Hills, Michigan office at (248) 540-4040 such that necessary action may be taken to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

TUNG & ASSOCIATES

Randy W. Tung
Reg. No. 31,311
Telephone: (248) 540-4040
Facsimile: (248) 540-4035
tungassoc@aol.com